

REMARKS

Applicants hereby request continued prosecution of the above-referenced patent application. Claims 1-40 are pending in the application, claims 13 and 16-40 have been withdrawn from consideration and claims 1-12, 14 and 15 were rejected in a Final Office Action, a timely reply was filed, and in an Advisory Action, the Examiner stated that Applicants arguments were not persuasive. Accordingly, Applicants Request for Continued Examination is being accompanied with this response to the Advisory/Final Office Action.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 11, 12, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,386,750 to Morrison (hereinafter referred to as the '750 reference). The '750 reference is directed to a detachable hair-trimming attachment for a disposable safety razor which has a frame and a plurality of spaced parallel teeth that above and perpendicular to a razor blade forming part of the disposable razor. The frame has an opening which exposes the blade to hair to be trimmed, the hair being guided to the blades by the teeth. The frame is designed with detachable fasteners which engage corresponding interengaging fasteners on the shaving head of the razor.

Unlike the invention recited in claim 1 of the present application, the '750 reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest "a body including a leading edge, a trailing edge, and a series of guard ribs integrally formed with the body and extending between the leading and trailing edges thereof." Nor does the '750 reference disclose, teach, or suggest "one or more cutting blades coupled to said body and having portions encompassed by said guard ribs, as is also recited in claim 1. Instead, the '750 reference discloses a comb incorporated into a detachable razor cover (see column 2 lines 47 and 48). The fact that the cover described in the '750 reference is detachable is further evidenced at column 2 lines 9-11 which recites; "The present invention has as an underlying objective the improvement in the previously known removable covers for a razor . . . After trimming hair with the cover in place, the user can remove the cover . . ." Further, the '750 reference, at column 3, lines 44 and 45, discloses, "In accordance with the present invention, a removable cover 16 mounts in an interlocking relationship with the razor head 14 . . ." In addition, FIG. 2, reproduced below, of the '750 reference shows the removable cover in the "removed" position relative to a razor. Claim 1 is directed to a

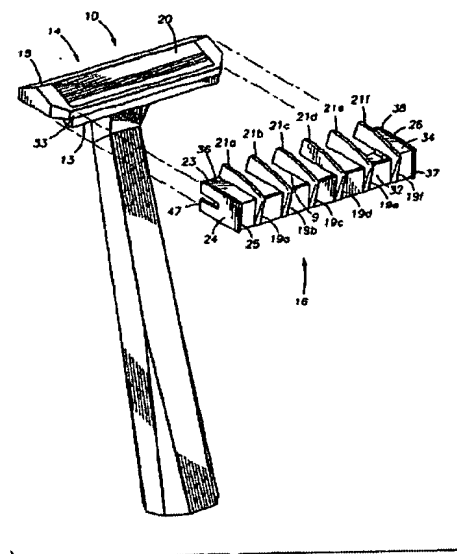


FIG. 2

razor blade cartridge where the blades are coupled to the body and the guard ribs are integrally formed with the body. In other words, the guard ribs and the body having the razor blades coupled thereto are a single unitary piece. Accordingly, it cannot be maintained that the removable cover of the '750 reference reads on the guard ribs of claim 1. In fact the '750 reference, and more particularly the removable guard bar, teaches directly away from the invention recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Where, as is the case here, each and every element and limitation is not disclosed in a single reference, an anticipatory rejection is inappropriate.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated, nor rendered obvious by the '750 reference. In addition, since the remaining claims all ultimately depend from claim 1, they to are patentably distinguishable of the '750 reference.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-9, 11-12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,794,343 to Lee et al. (hereinafter referred to as the '343 patent). In support of this rejection, the Examiner states that Lee discloses (FIG. 1-10) the invention including a leading edge, and a trailing edge, a series of integrally formed guard ribs, cutting edges, a guard bar 30 and a cap 18. Unlike the invention recited in claim 1 of the present application, the '343 patent does not disclose one or more of said guard ribs being spaced away from opposing ends of said body, the guard ribs covering at least a portion of the cutting edge of at least one of the cutting blades. Moreover, the Examiner's characterization

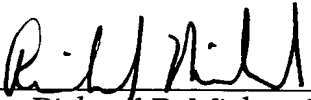
of the end portions of the cap in the '343 patent constituting guard ribs as disclosed in the present application is misplaced. The only manner by which such a characterization can be made is by hindsight reconstruction based on the disclosure of Applicant's patent application. Furthermore, the end portions of the cap in the '343 reference equate to the opposed ends of the body of the instant application and, as amended, claim 1 recites that the guard ribs are spaced away from these end portions. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 of the application in question is patentably distinguishable over the '343 reference. Since the remaining claims ultimately depend from claim 1, they too distinguish over the reference applied by the Examiner.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. In addition, the remaining claims in the application each ultimately depend from claim 1 and, as such, they are also allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '750 reference in view of United States Patent No. 5,447,084 to Althaus. In addition, the Examiner has rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '343 reference in view of United States Patent No. 5,447,084 to Althaus. However, claim 10 ultimately depends from claim 1 which Applicants contend is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claim 10 is also allowable.

Should any matter remain unresolved, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below. While Applicants believe that no fees are due upon filing this response, please charge any deficiencies in fees to deposit account no. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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